 Claim 13 (amended): The aqueous imbibing solution of claim 10 further comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of wetting agents, defoamers, surfactants and combinations thereof.

REMARKS

Applicants affirm the election of the claims of group 1, claims 1 – 13. Applicants further acknowledge the Examiner's finding of patentability of the claims, if re-written to overcome the 112 rejections. The claims have been re-written in response to the rejections and Applicants submit that they are in proper form for allowance.

Applicants further acknowledge the Examiners statement that the IDSs of 1/26/01 and 10/10/01 have been considered. Applicants note that the IDS of 1/26/01 included US Patent application 09/526,831 (attorney docket 14689), though a copy of that application was not provided. A copy should have been provided, however, as the patent rules had recently changed and required a copy at that time. Accompanying this response is an IDS again citing the application and providing a copy. Please charge any fees due as noted on the IDS cover letter.

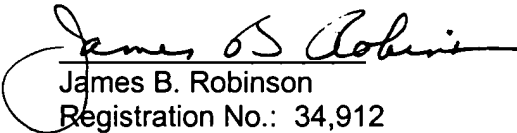
The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 13 under 35 USC §112. The claims have been amended to respond to these rejections. Applicants note further that sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3) and sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO_3) are different chemical moieties, one being monobasic and the other dibasic, which are effective at different pH levels. Applicants request that this distinction be recognized by the Examiner by allowing both compounds to remain in the claims.

S/N 09/702,093
Docket no. 15260
Filed October 30, 2000

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the pending claims under 35 USC § 112 be reconsidered and withdrawn in light of the preceding amendments and remarks.

Should the Examiner have any issues he would like to discuss in order to facilitate the progression of this application, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (770)-587-7273.

Respectfully submitted;


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Claims with changes indicated.

Claim 1 (amended): An aqueous coating formulation containing solids, for enhancing image visualization and retention of reactive dye-based inks, comprising:

- a) a cationic homopolymer [polymer] or copolymer,
- b) a fabric softener; and
- c) urea, and
- d) an ingredient selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate [or] and combinations thereof.

Claim 2 (amended): The aqueous coating formulation of claim 1 wherein said cationic homopolymer [polymer] or copolymer is present in an amount between about 5 [to] and about 95 weight percent [%] of the total solids.

Claim 3 (amended): The aqueous coating formulation of claim 1 wherein said fabric softener is present in the formulation in an amount between about 5 [to] and about 20 weight percent [%] of total solids.

Claim 5 (amended): The aqueous coating formulation of claim 4 wherein said latex binder is present in an amount between about 0 [to] and about 80 weight percent [%] of the total solids.

Claim 6 (amended): The aqueous coating formulation of claim 1 wherein [the sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate or combination thereof] said ingredient is present in an amount between about 3 and 10 weight percent [%] of the total solids.

Claim 7 (amended): the aqueous coating formulation of claim 1 wherein the urea is present in an amount between about 5 and 12 weight percent [%] of the total solids.

Claim 8 (amended): The aqueous coating formulation of claim 1 further comprising an additive [including additives] selected from the group consisting of [including] wetting agents, defoamers, [and] surfactants and combinations thereof.

Claim 9 (amended): The aqueous coating formulation of claim 8 wherein said [additives are] additive is present in an amount between about 0.1 and 1 weight percent [%] of the total solids.

Claim 10 (amended): An aqueous imbibing solution, for enhancing image visualization and retention of reactive dye-based inks comprising:

- c) an ingredient selected from the group consisting of [either] sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, and combinations [or a combination] thereof,
- d) urea.

Claim 11 (amended): The aqueous imbibing solution of claim 10 wherein [either the sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, or combination thereof] said ingredient is present in an amount [of] between about 30 and 40 weight percent [%] of the total solids.

S/N 09/702,093
Docket no. 15260
Filed October 30, 2000

Claim 12 (amended): The aqueous imbibing solution of claim 10 wherein said urea is present in an amount [of] between about 50 and 70 weight percent [%] of the total solids.

Claim 13 (amended): The aqueous imbibing solution of claim 10 further [including additives] comprising an additive selected from the group [including] consisting of wetting agents, defoamers, [and] surfactants and combinations thereof.